Pol 14 VIET

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EXCISE

5 1
ACTION EA-10

INFO SAL-01 GPM-03 SC-01 RSC-01 USIA-12 H-02 NSC-10 NSAE-00 L-03
INR-07 P-04 CIA-04 DOD-01 SP-02 SS-35 AID-30 SAH-03 IO-21 RSR-01

160 W

R 290725Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5577
INFO CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 827
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3980
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2316

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature]
PORTIONS MARKED AS INDICATED
DATE 12/22/81

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4338

CINCPAC FOR PUAD

Pol 14 Viet

REF: SAIGON 3828

1. EMBOFF LUNCHED AUGUST 28 WITH [redacted]

[redacted] CONVERSATION DEALT MAINLY WITH ELECTION AND RELATED TOPICS. [redacted] WAS IN REMARKABLY GOOD SPIRITS, SEEMED WILLING TO FIELD ALMOST ANY QUESTION AND HIS REPLIES SEEMED QUITE CANDID.

2. [redacted] FEELS THAT MILITARY SLATE WILL WIN IN SAIGON WITH APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-FIVE TO FORTY PERCENT OF THE VOTE. (THIS IS UP FROM HIS ESTIMATES REPORTED REFTEL.) CIVILIAN SLATES

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WILL DIVIDE UP THE REMAINING VOTES IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: b-1 ed
HUONG, SUU, BINH, KY, DZU AND THE FIELD. [redacted] WAS DISAPPOINTED
THAT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD NOT CHOSEN, IN THEIR MORNING
MEETING EVUGUST 28, TO LENGTHEN THE VOTING DAY BY TWO HOURS AS
PROPOSED. CONSEQUENCES FOR SAIGON, ACCORDING TO [redacted]
ARE THAT ONLY SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE WITHIN
THE ALLOTTED TIME AND MANY WILL BE TURNED AWAY FROM POLLS
AS CLOSING TIME.

3. [redacted] IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CIVIL DIS-
TURBANCES IN THE POST-ELECTION PERIOD. HE FEELS THAT AN
QUANG BUDDHIST MILITANTS ARE ANXIOUS TO TURN ON SOME SORT
OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND HOPE TO ENLIST BGSAPPOINTED CANDIDATES
AND THEIR CADRES IN THE POST-ELECTION PERIOD FOR SUCH AN
EFFORT. FURTHER PROBLEM CONFRONTING AN QUANG, ACCORDING
TO [redacted] IS LACK OF MONEY. (HE REMINDED EMBOFF "STRUGGLE"
PARTICIPANTS IN SPRING OF 1966 HAD COST TRI QUANG AND HIS COL-
LABORATORS 100 PIASTERS PER DEMONSTRATOR IN THE EARLY MANI-
FESTATIONS, 300 PER HEAD WHEN THE GOING FOT ROUGHER.) IF AN
QUANG IS GOING TO ORGANIZE SOMETHING, THEY WILL NEED A WAR
CHEST. UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES MAY WELL PROVIDE THE SOURCE.

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(THREE SEPARATE TIMES DURING THE CONVERSATION, [redacted] REFERRED b-1 ed
TO THE POSSIBILITY OF POST-ELECTION UNREST AND HE SEEMED
AS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE PROSPECT AS OTHERS CLOSE TO THE
GVN HAVE BEEN IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS.)

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION REGARDING THE IDENTITY OF THE
PRIME MINISTER SHOULD THIEU-KY SLATE BE SUCCESSFUL, [redacted]
SAID THAT KY WANTED NGUYEN VAN LOC WHEREAS THIEU WANTED
NGUYEN VAN HUONG. IT MAY BE [redacted] THAT ARMED
FORCES COUNCIL MAY HAVE TO DECIDE THIS ONE. AS FOR
HIS PERSONAL PREFERENCE, [redacted] FINDS LOC TOO SHALLOW AND HUONG
TO DAI VIET.

5. [redacted] IS MODESTLY HOPEFUL THAT SECURITY FORCES CAN DEAL WITH

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ANY V.C. ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS IN THE SAIGON-CHOLON AREA. HE RECALLED THE RECENT ARREST OF A HIGH LEVEL TERROIST CADRE WITHIN THE LAST MONTH AND SAID THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL HAD PROVIDED IMPORTANT LEADS WHICH PERMITTED THE ROUND-UP OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK. [redacted] ESTIMATED THAT TWO OR THREE MONTHS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PUT TOGETHER ANOTHER NETWORK.

6. [redacted] COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON CHANCES OF CERTAIN OF THE SENATE SLATES. HE FEELS THAT LISTS HEADED BY CATHOLICS

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NGUYEN VAN HUYEN, NGUYEN GIA HIEN, EX-GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, DIRECTORATE MEMBER HUYNH VAN NHIEM, COLONEL VU NGOC HOAN ALL STAND AN EXCELLENT CHANCE OF BEING ELECTED.

7. AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION, [redacted] REFERRED TO GENERAL THIEU'S AUGUST 25 PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ABOUT THE ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS FROM THE ARMED FORCES. SUCH ACTION WAS NECESSARY, HE SAID, TO REMOVE INEFFICIENT ELEMENTS AND MAKE ROOM AT THE TOP FOR DESERVING OFFICERS. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE PAIRED WITH A NEW RETIREMENT LAW WHICH WOULD PROVIDE OFFICERS WITH RETIREMENT PAYMENTS GENEROUS ENOUGH SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT FEEL COMPELLED TO SEEK POLITICAL ALLIANCES OR CONTEMPLATE COUPS WHEN THE SPECTRE OF RETIREMENT ROSE BEFORE THEM.

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